

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



April 2024

Keep Earth Day all year long

From Walnut Creek to the rolling terrain of the Texas Hill Country, there's a lot to love about Austin's natural spaces. With Earth Day on April 22, now is a great time to celebrate and support all of those spaces. You can keep that support going all year long with these ideas:

Enjoy more savings

An energy-efficient home is better for the environment and can save you money year-round. Explore rebates and resources to help make your home more energy efficient. Start today at austinenergy.com/tips.

Tree Smart Lunch & Learns

Celebrate Earth Day throughout the year with monthly Tree Smart Lunch & Learns hosted by Development Services Department (DSD). Bring your mid-day meal to the Permitting and Development Center — 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive — to hear experts from DSD's Community Tree Preservation Division discuss the City's tree protection ordinance and how the City cares for our urban forest. Visit the Upcoming Events section at austintexas.gov/dsd to get details and register.

Renewable wind energy for your home or business

Fun fact: Austin Energy's GreenChoice® Wind Energy is Texas' longest-running voluntary renewable energy program. Another fun fact: Texas produces the most wind power of any U.S. state! Don't let any of that hot air go to waste — choose GreenChoice and help reduce carbon emissions and support clean energy too. Learn more at austinenergy.com/greenchoice.



Join the EVolution with EV incentives and resources

Austin Energy can help you plug into cleaner transportation that is easy to use, easy to maintain and easy to charge. Electric vehicles are fun to drive and can save you some money while helping the environment. Austin Energy's EV Buyer's Guide will help you find your next truck, motorbike or test drive. Go to ev.austinenergy.com.

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The City asks for your input on a new five-year plan to fund housing and public services!

Help shape how the City can fund housing and community needs

The City of Austin invites community members to help guide a new five-year plan to invest housing and community development dollars where they are needed most. This Federal Funding Plan decides how to distribute approximately \$14 million in annual grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The public services and programs from this grant address things like affordable housing, job creation and public service needs for low- and moderate-income families, persons with disabilities and seniors.

A draft of the plan will be available in early May. To learn more and provide feedback, visit speakupaustin.org/mycommunityneeds.

Tell us what matters to you on the draft Equity-Based Preservation Plan



The City of Austin's Planning Department is asking for the community's feedback on the draft Equity-Based Preservation Plan. The plan aims to help us learn from our past to shape a future for everyone, and we want to hear from many Austinites to make sure it reflects community priorities. Visit publicinput.com/atxpresplan to tell us what matters to you.

The draft plan recommends preservation policies, programs and tools aimed at making Austin more equitable, inclusive and sustainable. It was developed by a community working group with 26 members from across Austin. The working group heard from many voices, and in total, more than 300 people helped shape the draft.

You can give feedback on the draft plan through May 31 at publicinput.com/atxpresplan. In addition to City-organized events, community ambassadors and local organizations are engaging historically marginalized communities.

Don't let distracted driving get the better of you

Distracted driving is deadly. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 32,657 people died in distraction-affected crashes across the United States from 2012 to 2021. In 2021, 3,522 people were killed and an estimated additional 362,415 people were injured in crashes involving distracted drivers.

Texting while driving is a major cause, but so are adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup and eating and drinking at the wheel.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and Austin is a Vision Zero city — that means we're committed to completely eliminating deaths and serious injuries on our roadways. Here are some tips to stay safe while driving:

- » **If you must send a text, pull over to a safe location and park your car first.**
- » **If you have passengers, appoint a "designated texter" to handle all your texting.**
- » **If you can't resist the temptation to look at your phone, keep it in the trunk or program its settings to delay alert notifications until you are finished driving.**

For more information about Vision Zero, go to austintexas.gov/department/vision-zero.



Spring into action with Grow Green

Austin's lakes and waterways need our help! We can reduce pollution and harmful algae blooms by using natural gardening practices in our lawns and gardens. Avoid using synthetic weed and feed products — their ingredients can cause widespread water pollution. Instead of using fertilizers, improve your soil and plant health by adding nutrient-rich compost. Use native and adapted plants for Central Texas, which reduce the need for harmful landscaping chemicals like pesticides. To learn more about creek-friendly and natural gardening, visit growgreen.org.

The basics of short-term rentals in Austin

Development Services Department Code Compliance is a one-stop resource for short-term rental (STR) information and annual licensing. The STR licensing team is available to assist with and process applications for new STR licenses, STR license renewals and extension requests.

STRs — residential dwelling units or an accessory building rented on a temporary basis for periods of less than 30 consecutive days — fall into one of three categories: owner occupied, non-owner occupied or part of a multi-family residential use.

You can learn more about Austin's STR regulations at austintexas.gov/STR. You are also welcome to contact the licensing intake team by email at strlicensing@austintexas.gov or by phone at **512-974-9144**.

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite coutilities.com/go/utilitynews.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

East Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Rd.

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

South Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 1901 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 100

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